

May 12, 2010

Project for Interim Delta Plan

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Name of Project

McCormack-Williamson Tract Flood Control and Ecosystem Restoration Improvements

Agencies / Entities Involved

The Nature Conservancy – Land Owner

Reclamation District 2110 – Levee Manager

CA Department of Water Resources – Project Partner

US Army Corps of Engineers – Project Partner

Project Description

The project's purpose is to implement flood control improvements in a manner that benefits aquatic and terrestrial habitat, species and ecological processes.

McCormack Williamson Tract is key to North Delta area flood dynamics. It's levees are constrained in height by legal agreement and normally flood in high water events. This flooding results in breaching of the downstream levee resulting in a surge of uncontrolled floodwaters causing stress on and failure to adjacent neighboring levees and local marina moorings. The project will result in lowering of the upstream levee and breaching of the downstream levee allowing floodwaters to be more gradually metered through the Tract, reducing the surge effect and minimizing flood impacts to the system.

Because McCormack Williamson Tract's topography varies from about minus four feet to plus five feet above sea level, the Tract also provides an ideal landscape gradient for a continuum of habitat types as part of the flood control solution.

This project is supported by area landowners who have been affected by the catastrophic nature of flooding on McCormack Williamson for years.

Project Schedule

The Department of Water Resources has prepared an environmental impact report for this project and is in the process of completing a final environmental impact report. Comments on the draft report have been received and responded to. The

Nature Conservancy, Reclamation District 2110 and the US Army Corps of Engineers are in the process of developing a cost share funding agreement that addresses detailed project costs and implementation. The agreement is scheduled to be completed by 2011. Construction on the project is expected to start in 2012.

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Funding and Biological Measurement Metrics

Funding for this project has been and will continue to be provided by the state (Department of Water Resources), the landowner (TNC), the local project sponsor (Reclamation District 2110), and the federal government (US Army Corps of Engineers).

The Nature Conservancy has previously partnered with UC Davis and DWR North Delta staff to assess integrated flood control and ecosystem restoration on McCormack Williamson Tract. All the alternatives for flood control and ecosystem restoration have been vetted through a scientific peer review process to include consideration of scientific uncertainties that may affect project planning and design. After adoption of the final EIR and completion of the federal cost share agreement, TNC will seek partnerships with interested scientific institutions to develop physical and biological metrics to gauge success of the project's goals and objectives.

Relationships to other Projects in the Delta

The Nature Conservancy purchased this property using CALFED funds in September 1999 with the purpose of restoring the Tract to provide for tidal marsh habitat and for flood risk reduction purposes. The project has since been described as a priority component of the North Delta Flood Control and Ecosystem Restoration Project (for which a final EIR is being completed) and has been included in the BDCP interim project list and is recognized by the US Army Corps as Delta priority project.